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 FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
 INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
 RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
 RUEADWD/PTC WASH DC
 RUEBARE/DIRNAVINSERV WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
 RUETIAR/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
 RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC/7327
 ROCJAAA/OSCINCRD MACDILL AFB FL
 RUCIFBA/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INW/INZ//
 RUEABOL/HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC
 RODRAAB/CDROSATTAC ARLINGTON HALL STATION VA
 RUEALGX/SAFE
 O D 121947Z MAY 85 ZFF4
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS NIACT IMMEDIATE
 RUEHWE/USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE 8175
 INFO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE
 BT
 UNCLAS STATE 145061 TOSEC 090566

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E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PREL, XF, US
 SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE,
 MAY 12, 1985

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1. U * ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUNDAY, MAY 12, WASHINGTON POST CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY WHICH ALLEGES THAT A COVERT USG ANTI-TERRORIST PLAN IN LEBANON WAS RESCINDED AFTER "UNAUTHORIZED BOMBING." THE STORY CONTENDS THAT LATE LAST YEAR THE USG APPROVED A COVERT OPERATION TO TRAIN AND SUPPORT COUNTER-TERRORIST UNITS, MANNED BY NON-O.S. PERSONNEL, FOR STRIKES AGAINST SUSPECTED TERRORISTS BEFORE THEY COULD ATTACK O.S. FACILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE STORY GOES ON TO STATE THAT ABOUT FOUR MONTHS LATER ON MARCH 8 MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE UNITS WENT ON A "RUNAWAY MISSION" AND BOMBED FADLALLAH HEADQUARTERS IN BEIRUT. AS A RESULT THE PURPORTED COVERT PROGRAM WAS CANCELLED.

3. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS FULLY CLEARED INTER-AGENCY AND WILL BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, WHICH SHOULD BE DRAWN ON AS APPROPRIATE BY ADDRESSEE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON TODAY'S STORY IN THE POST ABOUT COVERT PROGRAMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. WE DO NOT COMMENT ON ANY STORIES INVOLVING INTELLIGENCE MATTERS OR ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.

Q. YOU ARE PROSCRIBED BY LAW FROM ASSASSINATION ACTIONS. WASN'T THIS ACTION, THEREFORE, ILLEGAL?

A. ONCE AGAIN, I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON STORIES INVOLVING INTELLIGENCE MATTERS OR ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE MATTERS. AS A GENERAL STATEMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO AFFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT WE DO NOT UNDERTAKE ANY ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE LAW. THAT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS OUR POLICY.

Q. THE STORY CONTENDS THAT CONGRESS WAS NOT PROPERLY NOTIFIED. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. (REPEAT ANSWER TO FIRST QUESTION.) I WANT TO

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REITERATE THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FULLY MEETS ALL OF ITS OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, UNDER THE LAW.

Q. ARE WE DOING ANYTHING TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN THE AREA?

A. WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE DETAILS OF THE SECURITY MEASURES WE TAKE ABROAD, I WANT TO AFFIRM THAT THE SECURITY OF OUR PERSONNEL AND OTHER AMERICANS OVERSEAS IS CONTINUALLY A MATTER UNDER REVIEW. WE TAKE EVERY APPROPRIATE MEASURE TO HELP ENSURE THEIR SAFETY.

Q. IS THIS REPORTED PLAN PART OF YOUR NEW TOUGHER ANTITERRORIST POLICY?

A. I WILL NOT BE DRAWN INTO LINKING POLICY STATEMENTS TO SPECIFIC REPORTS OF ALLEGED ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND WILL NOT COMMENT ON SUCH MATTERS. THE SECRETARY HAS ENUNCIATED U.S. POLICY TO COMBAT TERRORISM. HIS REMARKS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. ARMA COS

END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED